

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital content reproducing system comprising:
 - a content server which stores and manages a digital content of movies; and
 - a projecting system which is connected to the content server via a network, receives the digital content from the content server via the network, and reproduces the digital content to show a movie.
2. The digital content reproducing system of claim 1, wherein the projecting system comprises:
 - a mass memory unit which stores the digital content supplied via the network;
 - a reproducing device which produces signals to reproduce the digital content;
 - a backup reproducing device which reproduces the digital content when the reproducing device can not serve to reproduce the digital content; and
 - an AV input switching device which receives output signals from the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device and selects output signals from an active one of the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device to produce the selected output signals.
3. The digital content reproducing system of claim 2, wherein the output signals supplied from the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device are each separated into video signals and audio signals, and wherein the projecting system further comprises:
 - a projecting device which receives the video signals from the AV switching device and projects them on a screen; and
 - an audio processor which receives the audio signals from the AV switching device and outputs them to a loudspeaker.

4. The digital content reproducing system of claim 3, wherein the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device comprise the same elements and each of the devices comprises:

an encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the digital content received from the mass memory unit;

an AV separating module which receives the digital content from the encrypting module and separates them into the video signals and the audio signals;

a video decoder which receives the video signals from the AV separating module and decodes them;

a video signal output device which receives the decoded video signals from the video decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device;

an audio decoder which receives the audio signals from the AV separating module and decodes them; and

an audio signal output device which receives the decoded audio signals from the audio decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device.

5. The digital content reproducing system of claim 4, wherein the backup reproducing device decodes the signals at the video decoder and the audio decoder while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and wherein the backup reproducing device starts sending process of the decoded signals to the AV input switching device in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

6. The digital content reproducing system of claim 5, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal to

instruct the reproducing device to stop, after the backup reproducing device starts the sending process.

7. The digital content reproducing system of claim 3, wherein the digital content is individually supplied in the form of video data and audio data, and wherein the reproducing device and the backup reproducing device comprise the same elements and each of the devices comprises a video data processing section and an audio processing section, the video data processing section comprising:

a first encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the video data received from the mass memory unit;

a video decoder which receives the video signals from the first encrypting module and decodes them;

a video signal output device which receives the decoded video signals from the video decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device, the audio data processing section comprising:

a second encrypting module which is connected to the mass memory unit and encrypts the audio data received from the mass memory unit;

an audio decoder which receives the audio signals from the second encrypting module and decodes them; and

an audio signal output device which receives the decoded audio signals from the audio decoder and outputs them to the AV input switching device.

8. The digital content reproducing system of claim 7, wherein the video signal output device supplies the decoded video signals to the projecting device not through the AV input switching device and/or the audio signal output device supplies the decoded audio signals to the audio processor not through the AV input switching device.

9. The digital content reproducing system of claim 7, wherein the backup reproducing device decodes the signals at the video decoder and the audio decoder while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and wherein the backup reproducing device starts sending process of the decoded signals to the AV input switching device in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

10. The digital content reproducing system of claim 9, wherein the backup reproducing device sends a second predetermined signal to instruct the reproducing device to stop, after the backup reproducing device starts the sending process.

11. The digital content reproducing system of claim 1, wherein the content server, the projecting system, and the network are located in an institution to show movies.

12. A digital content reproducing system comprising:
a content server which stores and manages a digital content of movies; and

a projecting system which is connected to the content server via a network, wherein the projecting system receives the digital content from the content server via the network and reproduces the digital content to show a movie, the projecting system comprises a reproducing device which supplies signals to reproduce the digital content and a backup reproducing device which supplies signals to reproduce the digital content when the reproducing device can not serve to reproduce the digital content, and wherein the backup reproducing device performs decoding process of the digital content while the reproducing device periodically sends a first predetermined signal to the backup reproducing device, and the backup reproducing

device starts processing the decoded digital content and supplying the signals to reproduce the movie in addition to the decoding process when the reproducing device stops sending the first predetermined signal.

13. A digital content delivery system comprising:
a first terminal which is located in a movie company;
a second terminal which is located in a content deliver company;
a third terminal which is located in an institution to show movies;
and

a network which connects the first terminal, the second terminal, and the third terminal to each other,

wherein movie information and a digital content of a movie are transmitted from the first terminal to the second terminal via the network, the movie information are transmitted from the second terminal to the third terminal via the network, and when the third terminal sends a request to the second terminal referring to the received movie information, the digital content is transmitted from the second terminal to the third terminal.

14. A method of reproducing a digital content at either one of a reproducing device and a backup reproducing device, comprising, at the reproducing device, the steps of:

receiving a digital content of a movie;
decoding the digital content;
processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup reproducing device;
at the backup reproducing device,

the steps of:

receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content;

receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

and

processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device.

15. A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computers to perform a method of reproducing a digital content comprising the steps of:

at a reproducing device,

receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content;

processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and

periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup reproducing device;

at the backup reproducing device,

receiving a digital content of a movie;

decoding the digital content;

receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;

and

processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a

processor, cause the processor to perform a method of reproducing a digital content comprising the steps of:

- at a reproducing device,
 - receiving a digital content of a movie;
 - decoding the digital content;
 - processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
 - periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup reproducing device;
 - at the backup reproducing device,
 - receiving a digital content of a movie;
 - decoding the digital content;
 - receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;
 - and
 - processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from the reproducing device.

17. A program product comprising, computer readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable instructions; the instructions being adaptable to enable computers to perform a method of reproducing a digital content comprising the steps of:

- at a reproducing device,
 - receiving a digital content of a movie;
 - decoding the digital content;
 - processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to reproduce the movie; and
 - periodically sending, in normal operation, a predetermined signal to a backup reproducing device;

at the backup reproducing device,
receiving a digital content of a movie;
decoding the digital content;
receiving the predetermined signal from the reproducing device;
and
processing the decoded digital content and supplying signals to
reproduce the movie, when the predetermined signal is not sent from
the reproducing device.